

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 2, 2013

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Improved Email Heading Your Way

by Tammy Wallace

For many of us, our MoDOT work day revolves around sending and receiving email; it is a vital tool of the trade so to speak, and we would be lost without it. For others, email use is less frequent, but still plays an important role in sharing and receiving information. But whatever your level of use, in the near future MoDOT email will get a lot better.

Over the last few months the Information Systems Division has been doing the background work to upgrade our current Lotus Notes email application to something more modern, and Microsoft Exchange fits that bill. Microsoft Exchange is the email application that integrates best with Microsoft Office, MoDOT's software application. In fact, if you use Microsoft Office at home, there's a good chance you also use Microsoft Exchange for your personal email, so the new application will be familiar to many of us.

Of course, when rolling out anything new there are questions. Right now, not all of those questions have answers, as our IS team is in the early planning stages of the rollout. Here's what they do know and want to share with employees:

- Microsoft Exchange is more modern and compatible with Microsoft Office and offers features that we currently do not have, making it a more useful communication tool
- Microsoft Exchange is more commonly used and will integrate better with our external partners who will also benefit from this upgrade
- IS division will be the first group trained to use the application; it will not be rolled out to other districts or divisions until they are well trained to assist others
- Various types of online, print, and other training materials will be provided.



"Changing to Microsoft Exchange will be a big process and we understand there will be some apprehension," said IS Director Beth Ring. "But we know how important email is to our employees and want to assure everyone that this migration will be done in a very well planned systematic fashion, making sure our emails are secure and everyone is well trained. The end payoff will be a far better product than what we currently have."

Watch for more information about the upgrade in the coming weeks.

MoDOT Receives Awards of Excellence

Three MoDOT entries received awards of excellence in the 2013 National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards. Congratulations to our contributors and coordinators!

Missouri Blueprint to SAVE MORE LIVES Conference

Contributors: Leanna Depue, Marisa Ellison, Darla Stumpe, Kathy Shikles and Dawn Haslag
Entry Coordinator: Kelly Martin

The Missouri Blueprint to SAVE MORE LIVES received the award for excellence in the category of materials produced for a conference, meeting or other event.

The purpose of the conference was to unveil the new Blueprint document, to recognize highway safety heroes for their outstanding efforts, and to announce the new four year fatality reduction goal for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Safety advocates from across the state gathered to celebrate the success of the coalition and to move forward in the ultimate vision for Missouri's "Show Me Zero Roadway-Related Deaths."

All conference materials were created in house and included the conference agenda, awards booklet, banners, displays, promotional items and even the new Blueprint TO SAVE MORE LIVES, which can be viewed at SaveMOLives.com.



Some conference attendees were members of ThinkFirst Missouri - Central Region Show-Me Safety Award; Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety; and Missouri Coalition for Roadway

Conference photos can be viewed on flickr - Photos

Safety Board Member Sheriff Rodney Herring, Grundy County.

International Bridge Conference Feature Exhibit

Contributor: Dennis Forbis

Entry Coordinator: Holly Dentner



MoDOT's International Bridge Conference exhibit won an award of excellence under the "display" category.

Missouri was selected as the feature agency at the 2012 International Bridge Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the department was asked to feature its significant achievements in bridge construction at the conference exhibit hall.

The 50 by 50 foot exhibit area included six free-standing, double-sided display panels and two large "tower" displays. A brochure containing the display information was also created to accompany the exhibit.

The goal of the exhibit content was to capture the achievement and magnitude of each profiled project, including descriptions of what made the projects stand out and lots of photos to illustrate the work.

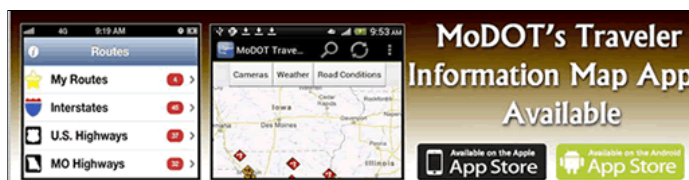
The copy and photos for the exhibit were written and collected by MoDOT employees and the engineering firms involved in the highlighted projects. Now-retired MoDOT employee Dennis Forbis designed the entire exhibit.

One of the exhibit displays featured the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program. This image shows the front and back panels of the display, which was 7 feet tall and 16 feet wide.

MoDOT's Traveler Information App

Contributors: Matt Hiebert, Stuart Harlan, Mary Beth Anthony and Les Fennewald

Entry Coordinator: Matt Hiebert



MoDOT's Traveler Information smartphone app won an award of excellence under the "mobile" category.

The app was designed to meet the growing demand for current road condition information from the convenience of a mobile device.

Traveler Information Map for iPhones, iPads, and Android devices. It functions almost exactly like the online version, including work zone information, traffic camera images, radar, and weather-related road conditions.

The app's most unique feature is the "My Routes" option, which allows users to preprogram and view the routes they travel most.

The map app's conception, interface, navigation, functionality, and supporting databases were all done in-house by MoDOT employees. The app was launched on November 1, 2012, and has been downloaded over 25,000 times.

New State Transportation Program Focuses on Roadway Maintenance

by Holly Dentner

Every year, the Missouri Department of Transportation releases its Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which lists all transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies for a five-year period.

This year, the draft 2014-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the "STIP," is available for public review and comment through May 31, 2013.



"Projects listed in the STIP represent our commitments to the state of Missouri," said MoDOT Director Dave Nichols. "Our planning partners have helped us determine what projects are priorities based on the funding available, and the STIP puts them on a schedule for completion."

Several years ago, the STIP contained over a billion dollars' worth of road and bridge construction projects each year, generating jobs, boosting the economy and expanding the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the state and the country.

A dramatic reduction in transportation funding, however, makes today's STIP look very different.

"For the most part, this draft STIP features projects that focus on maintaining the transportation system we have," said Nichols. "Asphalt overlays, preventative maintenance and rehabilitation projects make up the majority of our \$700 million program."

The draft 2014-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program lists transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies for fiscal years 2014 through 2018 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018). The proposed program is available for public review beginning May 1. Those interested in seeing the program or offering comments can contact MoDOT's customer service centers at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (888-275-6636). The program is also available on MoDOT's web site, www.modot.org, and at MoDOT district and regional offices around the state. The formal comment period ends May 31, 2013.

Following the public review period, the comments will be presented to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The commission will review the comments and the final transportation program before considering it for approval at its July 10 meeting in Rolla.

MoDOT is also engaged in a long-term planning effort called "On the Move." The department is working through the summer to gather direction and insight from Missourians on major transportation issues and priorities. Where the draft STIP represents specific obligations for transportation over a five-year period, On the Move will identify and prioritize transportation needs and solutions for the next 20 years. Learn more about On the Move at www.missourionthemove.org.

Did You Know?



While MoDOT does not manage rail or transit, it is a total transportation agency that includes more than just roads and bridges. Four Amtrak routes serve Missouri, but the only state-supported line is the Missouri River Runner – two daily round-trips between Kansas City and St. Louis.

What's Happening



Win a MoDOT Centennial T Shirt!

The Connections staff congratulates the last quiz winners – Brenda St. John of Information Systems in the Southeast District and Lyron Arthur of Audits and Investigations in the Central Office. Their names were chosen from 171 correct answers.

Take part in the current centennial quiz on the MoDOT Sharepoint site for your chance to win. Enter online here: [Quiz](#) or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, May 10.

Question: Since 1913, today's MoDOT has gone through many changes. Which of the following has NOT YET been the organization's name?

- State Highway Department
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Missouri Highways and Transportation Department
- Missouri Department of Awesome

Thank You!

A Sweet Tweet

After driving thru another state, it makes me appreciate all the hard work the men and women @MoDOT do to keep our roads in great condition #Thanks!

May Service Anniversaries

30 Years

Bradford Allen Gates - NW
Burnut Edwin Woods - KC
Bradley Scott Williams - KC

20 Years Continued

Dustin D. Eckhoff - SW
Sandra Jean Cline - SW
Ricky E. Trower - SW

10 Years Continued

Joyce Ann Branson - CD
Daniel R. Espey - CD
Steven Dale Crawford - CD

Ronnie Keith Lammert - SL
 Bill E. Abney - SL
 George Joseph Kopp - CO
 Darla J. Stumpe - CO

25 Years

Ronald L. Watts - NE
 Richard Allen Domzalski - NE
 Thomas Joseph Markway - KC
 Michael William Price - KC
 Kathy L. Gettemeier - SL
 James Allen Middleton - SL
 Garland L. Hillner - SL
 Ricky Ray McCallister - SW
 Robert S. Reed - SE
 Dewayne B. Robey - SE
 Tommy E. Smith - SE
 Arthur M. Ross - SE
 Paul S. Harman - CO
 Barbara E. Shelby - CO
 Bertha May Lee-Williams - CO

20 Years

James R. Gillespie - NW
 Steven F. Pike - NE
 Jim A. Carriker - NE
 Danny Dean Behl - NE
 Jeffery Lee Gander - NE
 Lincoln W. Keen - NE
 Shawn D. Parrish - NE
 Dennis Eugene Brady - CD
 Tim A. Hellebusch - SL
 Thomas K. Blair - SL

Kevin James Davidson - SE
 James M. Laughlin - CO
 Robert G. O'Connor - CO
 Gabriel G. Wolken - CO
 Paula F. Brown - CO
 Danny L. Sickendick - CO

15 Years

Darin M. Lunsford - NW
 Janet F. Groenda - NE
 Belinda Lynn Fite - KC
 Richard Thomas Lalla - KC
 James W. Williams - CD
 Larry T. Johnson - CD
 Amy M. Twellmann - SL
 Eric Clifton Axtell - SL
 Stephen R. Shelton - SW
 Brenda J. Morris - CO

10 Years

Roddy L. Bartz - NW
 Joseph Dalton Graves - NW
 Francis Scott Hollon - NW
 John W. Parker - NW
 Michael David Chidster - NE
 Oliver S. Perkins - NE
 Clayton Rice - NE
 Donald Wayne Vincent - NE
 Michael Frank Foppe - NE
 Mark R. Burroughs - KC
 Milton Valentin - KC
 Herbert Karl Lennox - KC
 Eric Lee Mabery - CD
 George B. Lane - CD
 Justin Michael Neuman - CD

Robert J. Greufe - SW
 Steven E. Cooper - SW
 Gideon Wayne Buchanan - SW
 Jerry Waine Vogel - SW
 Andrew B. Seiler - SW
 Samuel R. Bishop - SE
 Timothy E. Pippin - SE
 Joseph L. Killian - SE
 Jamie L. Norris - SE
 Donald E. Reynolds - SE
 Jeffrey T. Cremer - CO

5 Years

David Gerald Simmerman - NW
 Austin Dake Hibler - NW
 James Brett Griffith - NE
 Jerry Wayne Wathen - KC
 Ryan Carroll Monroe - KC
 Elizabeth L. Hart-Hopkins - KC
 Keegan L. Sievers - CD
 Linzy M. Agnew - CD
 Richard G. Swierk - SL
 Richard E. Creek - SL
 John Everett Smith - SL
 Larry Kevin McFadden - SL
 Randy A. Fountain - SL
 John F. Gasperoni - SL
 James Riley Blanchard - SW
 Jeffery Steven Drake - SW
 Nicholas James Fraley - SE
 James Andrew Cowger - SE
 Danny R. James - SE
 Jeannette Muhlig Saucier - CO
 Kimberly C. Richter - CO

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The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

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MoDOT Employee Featured in News Tribune

Kevin McLain, MoDOT's geotechnical director in the soils sample lab in Jefferson City, was recently featured in the Jefferson City News Tribune. Here is Kevin's story, courtesy of the Tribune, article by Kris Hilgedick, photo by Julie Smith.

As director of the Missouri Department of Transportation's geo-technical section, Kevin McLain oversees a team that helps answer the geology and soil science questions asked by other department engineers.

McLain has served as director for a little more than one month, but he's worked for MoDOT for several years. Although his first job was as a structural designer of bridges, since 1991 he has held several titles in the geotechnical section, which is a part of MoDOT's construction and materials division.

McLain is a 1988 graduate of Kansas State University, where he earned a bachelor's of science in civil engineering, with a specialty in geology. He is both a professional engineer and registered geologist. He also has a master's degree in construction engineering and project management, and he's working on his doctorate in the same field.

"My weekends are basically spent doing a lot of studying," he said.

Today, his daily work is less about the science and more about managing personnel and resources. "It's more about getting the job done the best way we can do it," he said. "It's about the team."

McLain said he knew the geotechnical section — it used to be called soils and geology — was the right place for him because it offered the opportunity for field work.

"I really enjoyed that, spending time with the drilling staff," he said.

Once soil samples are collected and tests are concluded, the team writes reports with advice for how to make slopes safer, how to build or repair bridge foundations, how to shore up retaining wall foundations and how to deal with underground cavities and sinkholes, to name a few common tasks. The team addresses a variety of geology challenges all over the state, from finding solutions for karst topography in the Springfield/Joplin area to dealing with seismic issues in the Bootheel.

"We make sure that projects that have already been built — or are being built — continue to be safe to drive on, and safe for the construction workers, too," he said.

He said safety is a key priority for MoDOT's staff.

"It's job No. 1. The mantra 'We all go home safe' is something we try to live by," he said.

Tribune online article - Kevin McLain



What's Happening at Central Office

Outstanding Women of Missouri Exhibit

The Equal Opportunity and Development Division is proud to bring the Outstanding Women of Missouri Exhibit to the central office. The exhibit is on loan from the Missouri Women's Council and on display:

Wed., May 1 – Tues., May 29

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First Floor Central Office (*vacated right of way area next to chief counsel's office*)

The exhibit features many of Missouri's most influential women who have helped shape our history through their contributions. Please take a few moments to visit the exhibit and learn about these amazing women.

A sign in sheet will be located near the entrance.



Several members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, along with MoDOT senior management, viewed the exhibit on its opening day. Left to right: Director Dave Nichols, Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker, Commissioner Grace Nichols and Commission Vice Chair Steve Miller.

Please remember to sign in so the number of attendees can be recorded. Employees are encouraged to leave comments or suggestions for future events.



More Mentor Insights

The mentor program continues to be a strong influence on employees. Last month in Connections we featured an interview of a mentor and mentee, Machel Watkins and Elizabeth Reed, who shared their insights on the program.

A second interview in a series of four is featured this month. Reading these interviews can help shed light on the mentor program for anyone interested becoming a mentor or mentee. [Interview \(this link works for employees only\)](#).

Remember, the mentor program is available to all employees. Mentees can choose their mentors and meeting schedules.

To learn more or to sign up for the program, visit the website – [Mentor Program \(this link works for employees only\)](#).



Training Available

CPR and First Aid training classes are being offered to central office employees. Morning and afternoon classes are available. Classes are filling up fast so please sign up early. Additional classes will be scheduled over the coming weeks.

Location: HRED, Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

Wed., June 26	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Thu., June 27	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Tues., July 2	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

To register contact Danielle Thomas - Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov
573-526-7860



BLOOD DRIVE

Mississippi Valley
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

**Missouri State
Capitol Building**

Wednesday, May 15, 2013
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Third Floor Rotunda

To Schedule a Donation, Please Contact (314) 291-4741, 1-800-591-8049 or Go
Online to www.bloodcenterimpact.org. Use Sponsor Code: 10132

www.bloodcenter.org
Eat before donating • Bring photo ID

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The Barrel Crew Are A Hit At Work Zone Safety Family Night



This young visitor, Ayden, was devastated when the original Work Zone Safety Family Night had to be postponed. Luckily she was able to make it to the rescheduled date and enjoyed having her picture taken with Baby Bob.

child safety seats were checked for proper installation, two new car seats were issued to families in financial need and many families took their photo with Barrel Bob, Barrel Betty and Baby Bob.

Each visitor went home with handouts about Work Zone Awareness and a better understanding of what they can do to keep both themselves and our workers safe on our highways. To see more pictures of the event, please visit our flickr site at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/52168572@N05/sets/>

It was sunny and warm for our Work Zone Safety Family Night held Thurs., April 25, at the district office. The same couldn't be said for the day we'd originally planned to hold it. Cold weather hit during National Work Zone Awareness Week prompting the rescheduling of the event.

Customer Service Representatives Lisa Kellison and Shelly Aebersold organized the event, which was open to the public. MoDOT staff brought in two boom trucks, a dump truck with a TMA, and an interstate sign. Our community partners also provided a St. Joseph police department vehicle, the seat belt convincer from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and St. Joseph Safety Council's Safety Town.

There were give away tables, a fatal vision goggles station and a child passenger seat check staffed by technicians from across our district. Our On The Move Ambassadors also set up a table to take comments from the public. Visitors, especially the kids, enjoyed climbing in the MoDOT trucks to honk the horns and in the police vehicle to turn on the sirens and flashing lights. Nine



Seasonal Maintenance Worker Ashley Rhodus (left) and Senior Maintenance Worker Nicole Smith, help Reagan Watson explore a MoDOT dump truck. Reagan is the daughter of Northwest District Utilities Engineer Adam Watson.



Senior Human Resources Specialist Brandi Shepler had her daughter Mahra's car seat checked by Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen.

It's Spring Meeting Time

Spring Meetings are in full swing with two already under our belt and four more planned in the next two weeks. Crews have gathered at our Maryville and Trenton Maintenance facilities to hear the latest from our safety and health department, our maintenance department and the division of tourism. To round out the morning District Engineer Don Wichem, Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughey and Area Engineers Mike Rinehart and Tonya Lohman hosted a panel Q & A after a presentation on Celebrating 100 Years, On The Move and the "Best Days Ahead" video.



The Department of Tourism presents to employees at our Maryville spring meeting.



Northwest District Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Marty Liles talks to crews gathered at Trenton maintenance about the rear advance warning truck.

Around the District



Intermediate Construction Inspector Mike Marriott is interviewed by KCHI Radio during the Route V Media Event held in Chillicothe. Construction crews are building a new bridge on Route V inside the city limits of Chillicothe.



Several crews combined for bridge washing/flushing duty on Route A in Nodaway County. These crews also were part of a Safety Review done by Customer Relations Manager Melissa Black and Area Engineer Tonya Lohman.



Maintenance Crew Leader Steve Stratton and Maintenance Worker Scott Witkowski install a Welcome Sign at the Eagleville Welcome Center. By placing a Welcome Sign at the center, it provides a photo opportunity to visitors without them stopping on the interstate.



A Welcome sign is already installed at the Rock Port Welcome Center.

For more info

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Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Thirty Roads Closed

At one time, nearly 30 roads in northeast Missouri were closed due to flash flooding. While many were quickly repaired and reopened, some remained closed for several days due to the rise of the Mississippi River.

Repairs to expansion joints and some delineators on the Champ Clark Bridge on US 54 at Louisiana had been postponed for several days due to the weather.

After the highway was closed on the Illinois side due to Mississippi River flooding, crews were able to take advantage of the already inconvenient closure to make the repairs. The bridge was closed for about a week, and all repairs were completed.

"We are underway in the environmental assessment process for a new bridge, and it is expected we will address the flooding issue on the Illinois side if and when we receive funding for construction," said Keith Killen, transportation project manager.

Killen and several MoDOT staff are working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to determine the environmental impacts to the area so a location of a new bridge can be determined.



This may look like the average bridge work, yet these crews are working on the U.S. 54 Mississippi River Bridge at Louisiana which was closed due to flooding last week.



This is a semi that stalled on US 36 near S Shelby school during flash flooding last week. Since US 36 is not really prone to anything other than flash flooding, it was determined a railroad culvert had been clogged, which backed up water onto the highway. According to crews, the semi drove past a deputy car (with flashing lights on), a MoDOT truck (with flashing lights on), a MoDOT flagger, and two signs which read "water over road" to get to his "destination." Photo by Thad Requet, Shelbina Weekly

Around the District...

Spring meetings are nearing conclusion in the Northeast District, and a variety of presentations have been made to help keep employees abreast of topics from upcoming highway and bridge projects to funding and the EAEC.

"The agenda is developed with our full scope of services in mind," explained Kevin James, assistant district engineer. Safety has definitely permeated throughout nearly every presentation, touting the new value of Safety Begins with Me.



Kelly Hall shared information about the EAEC during the spring meetings.

One of the unique things offered during the spring meetings is a wellness screen for each employee. According to Jennifer Butner, human resources and coordinator of the screenings, about 180 employees participated.

The spring meetings also were a celebration of MoDOT's 100th anniversary, complete with birthday cake and balloons. Several employees were sporting the commemorative t-shirts, and several others ordered more.



These are just a few of the items that have been submitted for the "Show Me Your Trash" contest.

The Northeast District is held the "Show Me" Your Trash Contest in the month of April in conjunction with the No MOre Trash! Bash. "We wanted to hear from adopters and the general public their most interesting or unusual piece of trash found when picking up litter," said Marisa Christy-Kerns, customer relations specialist and Adopt A Highway coordinator for the NE District.

Entries were submitted and three finalists will be selected today. "The top three will be voted on through the website May 3 - 8, and the winner will be announced May 10," Marisa added.

The winner will receive a No MOre Trash! Bash bag, a live plant and other goodies.



Pictured is Brian, along with other participants in the class. They were doing a community service project. Their group was to purchase, prepare and serve lunch at the community kitchen.

Brian Haeffner, area engineer, participated in the EXCEL program for Randolph County.

The program consisted of 4-to 8-hour sessions every Tuesday since January, with various topics related to Randolph County/Moberly. It also included three two-day overnight trips to Camp Windermere (team building), Jefferson City (state government) and Trenton/Chillicothe (community study tour to provide comparisons to Moberly).

"Randolph County EXCEL was a great experience. It provided a depth and breadth of knowledge about Moberly that would be hard to obtain any other way and was an inspiration in service to community. The people in our EXCEL group will be a great resource in the future and the knowledge gained through the course will help as we tackle area transportation issues in the future," Brian said.

Graduation for the program was held on April 30th. Congratulations, Brian!

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Web Pages, Maps May Help You Negotiate Top Five KC Area Work Zones

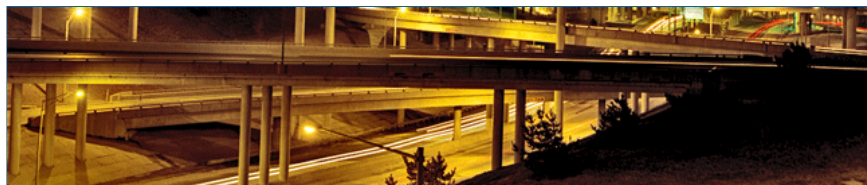
by Steve Porter

Despite lingering cool temperatures and sporadic rain, a new season of highway construction has begun. MoDOT's Kansas City District will see concentrated construction in and around the downtown loop, and also north on I-35 near Claycomo and Liberty. By using all the tools MoDOT and Kansas City Scout can provide, motorists can take an active role in easing traffic congestion and minimizing delays.

Some of the biggest Kansas City area work zones this construction season feature web pages with the latest information, maps and timelines. Below is more information on the top five projects this year:

- [Downtown Bridges](#). I-35, I-70, I-670 and the 12th Street bridge over I-70 in the Downtown area. Bridge, ramp and lane closures will affect the I-35 corridor coming and going to Kansas, and access at each of the four corners of the Downtown Loop at times through mid-December. Click [HERE](#) for a map and timeline of specific closures.
- [I-35/I-435/Route 69 near Claycomo](#). Work to improve a busy interchange near the Ford Assembly Plant will close bridges, ramps and lanes at times. Click [HERE](#) for more information and a map of closures.
- [I-29/I-435 Bridges near KCI Airport](#). Bridge replacement work has already closed the ramp from northbound I-29 to Cookingham Drive (Route D) through early May, and other ramps and lane closures are scheduled. Click [HERE](#) for the latest information and maps of closures and detours.
- [I-635/Route 9/US 69 Bridges Near the City of Riverside](#). Several ramps will close at various times, but none more than eight weeks. Click [HERE](#) for the latest information and a map of closures.
- [Grandview Road Bridge](#). Replacement of the Grandview Road Bridge over Bannister Road (Route W) in south Kansas City will begin this spring. Grandview Road will close for several months, and Bannister Road traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction at times to accommodate bridge removal and replacement. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

You can get up to the minute traffic information through Kansas City Scout by going to www.kcscout.net. MoDOT also provides a statewide Traveler Information Map at www.modot.org that shows lane restrictions and closures here and across the state. MoDOT urges motorists to be patient, be courteous, and pay attention in work zones.



Location Public Hearing for New Interchange on I-35

by Kerri Lewis

MoDOT and the City of Kearney held a location public hearing to gather feedback about a potential new interchange on I-35 at 19th Street south of Route 92 in Kearney. This is the next step in finalizing an Access Justification Report Study to get Federal Highway Administration approval this summer. More than 75 Kearney residents stopped by on Thursday, April 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. to visit with the study team, learn about the project, and offer comments.

The AJR study has investigated several potential interchange locations on I-35, analyzing two of the most promising in more detail: NE 136th Street and NE 144th/19th Street. These two locations were selected based on the Purpose and Need for the project, and also had the most public support at the last public meeting.



MoDOT and the City of Kearney hosted a location public hearing to discuss the recommended location for a potential new interchange on I-35 and 19th Street. More than 75 people stopped by on Thursday, April 25 to learn about the project and offer comments. Photo: Kerri Lewis

After further analysis, the recommended location is a potential new interchange at I-35 and 19th Street. The study team considered how a new interchange will improve current and future traffic volume on Route 92 through Kearney. It is also important to identify if the location would encourage economic development, and enhance local and regional connectivity while improving safety to the east on Route 92. The I-35 and 19th Street location better relieves the existing I-35/Route 92 interchange and better serves (and directs) future growth.

- By providing a direct connection to I-35, this interchange should significantly decrease cut-through traffic on Regency Drive; 2040 volumes on the north end of Regency Drive could decrease by 50 percent or more during rush hour.
- FHWA indicated that the spacing between this interchange and the existing I-35/Route 92 interchange is acceptable.

The next steps include finalizing the report and submitting to FHWA. If approved later this summer, then funding would need to be identified before design and construction could begin.

KC District On the Move

Photos: Jennifer Benefield



On The Move Ambassadors Jackie White and Jennifer Benefield stopped by Burns & McDonnell's first bicycle rodeo Saturday, April 27 to talk to participants about Missouri's transportation future.



On The Move Ambassador Abdul Yahaya spoke to those attending the National Institute for Construction Excellence's annual IBUILD Showcase at Bartle Hall Tuesday, April 30.



On The Move Ambassador Kerri Lewis talked transportation with Johnson County residents at Whiteman Air Force Base's Community Fair held Friday, April 26.

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Route 63 Bluff Work to Wrap Up Friday

Work to stabilize the rock bluff on Route 63 near the Boone/Callaway county line is on track to be completed this Friday.

Some blasting, like that shown in the video at right, has taken place intermittently throughout the project, which began April 1.

Falling rock prompted the Central District to close one northbound lane of Route 63 on March 28 and executed an emergency contract for the work, which entails stabilizing the face of the rock bluff and cutting a series of steps into it to prevent loose rock from falling onto the highway.

The northbound lane was reopened on April 8, with periodic closures for blasting.



This video showing the blasting used to remove loose rock on the bluff on Route 63 near the Boone/Callaway county line has been viewed more than 8,000 times on Facebook.

So Long, Farewell

The Central District said good-bye to two long-time MoDOT employees in April: District Maintenance Engineer Mark Giessinger and Maintenance Supervisor Patty Bates.

Mark began working for MoDOT in 1983 as a senior construction technician in the St. Louis District. He then held various positions in the Northeast District, including construction inspector, senior traffic studies engineer, district maintenance engineer and area engineer. He joined the Central District as district maintenance engineer in August of 2011.

"Mark has had an outstanding career with MoDOT, and it is hard to see him leave, but we wish him all the best in his retirement," said Central District Engineer Dave Silvester.

Patty joined MoDOT's District 5 in 1984 as a crew worker. She served all of her 28 years in central Missouri in capacities that included sign production supervisor, signing and striping supervisor, regional maintenance supervisor and maintenance supervisor.

"We will miss Patty's energy and enthusiasm," Dave said. "We appreciate her many years of dedicated service to MoDOT."

Brandon Schreimann, former Jefferson City Maintenance Crew Leader, took over the maintenance supervisor position on May 1.



Central District Maintenance Engineer Mark Giessinger holds a poster with photos of himself displaying MoDOT hand signals for directing traffic. The spoof was presented to him at his retirement reception held April 30.



Patty Bates displays a cake wishing her well on her retirement. Patty retired as district maintenance supervisor on May 1.

A Baby Bob is Born!

Now that the highway construction season is here, Barrel Bob is again making the rounds to remind motorists to drive safely in work zones.

This year, he has some company.

Maintenance Bridge Crew Supervisor Jim Hager and his staff went to work on a rainy day to create Baby Bob – a version of Barrel Bob as a child. Similar to the Muppet Babies, which depict Kermit and Miss Piggy in their younger years, Baby Bob is a flashback to Bob's early years. From his earliest days, Bob has been all about work zone safety.

While big Bob will spend most of the spring and summer out on central Missouri roadsides, little Bob will stick closer to home and be located in the Central District Office lobby when not being used at events. Baby Bob will come in handy for photos and to take on the go. Standing at an impressive 11 feet tall, his larger counterpart is just not as mobile.

Thanks to the bridge crew for their creativity in bringing Baby Bob to life and thanks to all of the maintenance workers who see that Bob gets stationed in strategic locations around the district and picked up when heavy winds or curious humans knock him down!



Baby Bob made his debut at a reception held by the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce for members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on April 30 at the Carl G. Noren Missouri River Access in Jefferson City. Pictured with the two Bobs are Commissioner Stephen Miller and MoDOT Chief Counsel Rich Tiemeyer.

District Happenings



Intermediate Maintenance Worker Eric Kaiser shows students at Jefferson City's Special Learning Center the ins and outs of a MoDOT dump truck. The Jefferson City Maintenance Facility is always quick to help the center with its annual Transportation Day held April 29.

Buckle Bear (a.k.a. Senior Customer Service Representative Janis Gieck) plays peek-a-boo with one of the Special Learning Center students at the center's annual



Transportation Day held April 29.



Barrel Bob was the inspiration for the cake that was served at the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce's reception held April 30 for members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. Jefferson City was the host of the May 1 commission meeting, and the chamber entertained the commission and other guests at the Carl G. Noren Missouri River Access in Jefferson City the evening before. The event included a river barge cruise.



Several Central District employees volunteered their time to pick up trash on April 22 as part of the state's annual No More Trash! Bash. The trash pick up took place on Route 94 in Callaway County, one mile east of the US 54/63 interchange – the department's adopted stretch of highway. The Jefferson City News Tribune featured photos of the trash pick up in two of its editions. The April 29 newspaper featured a photo of District Design Engineer Nicole Hood picking up trash to aid the effort.



The Lake-Area Chamber of Commerce turned the lights on its Hollywood-style "Lake of the Ozarks" sign along Route 54 orange during National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19. The sign served as a reminder to motorists to drive safely in work zones.

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MoDOT Kicks Off Motorist, Cyclist and Pedestrian Safety in May with Trailnet and Metro Transit

by Kara Price

Many Missourians walk or bicycle to get where they need to go. While both provide physical and health benefits, there is always the risk of serious or fatal injuries if they come in contact with a motor vehicle. MoDOT St. Louis is partnering with Trailnet and Metro Transit to kick off the "Safe Roads for All" initiative throughout May to enforce the need for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to share the road and be aware of one another's safety.

Leaders of MoDOT St. Louis, Trailnet and Metro Transit will address the media and the public at the second annual kickoff event Monday, May 6 starting at 8 a.m., to enforce the importance of "sharing the road" for cyclist, motorist and pedestrian safety. The news conference will be held outside the Missouri History Museum, located at the intersection of Lindell and DeBaliviere on the north side of Forest Park. The museum's street address is 5700 Lindell, St. Louis.

Following the news conference, these leaders will depart from the Missouri History Museum, along with many other motorists, cyclists and pedestrians representing Safe Roads for All, to the St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station (located at 1011 Locust Street):

- MoDOT St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger and Trailnet CEO Ann Mack will lead a group of cyclists and motorists on a safety ride downtown.
- Metro Transit President & CEO John Nations will lead a group of pedestrians over to the Forest Park-DeBaliviere Metro Link Station to take the train downtown.

For those in attendance, there will be more information offered at the downtown bicycle station from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to help them understand what they can do to be safe on the roads. Cyclists and pedestrians need to understand they have primary responsibility for their own safety. The motoring public also has a responsibility to share the road in a safe and courteous manner with these vulnerable road users.



Pictured is last year's safety ride led by Trailnet and MoDOT departing from the Missouri History Museum to the St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station to show the importance of sharing the road for cyclist, motorist and pedestrian safety.

Heroes Way Memorial Sign Dedication for St. Louis Marine

by Marie Elliott

The family and friends of a local Marine, Lance Cpl. Matthew William Clark, of St. Louis, recently hosted a Heroes Way sign dedication ceremony in his honor. Lance Cpl. Clark was on active duty in the Marine Corp, when he was killed in Iraq in 2006.

Family and friends gathered at MoDOT's Transportation Management Center in mid-

April for the ceremonial sign unveiling in his memory. MoDOT sign crews installed the signs at I-270 and Ladue Road, following the ceremony.

The memorial sign recognition is part of the Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Program legislation, passed in 2009. Under this legislation, interstate interchanges can be designated for Missouri residents, who served in the armed forces and were killed in action on or after September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan or Iraq. In 2011, the original legislation expanded to include state numbered roadways.



A ceremony was held to dedicate a new Heroes Way highway sign in honor of Lance Cpl. Matthew Clark. The sign is located on I-270 at Ladue Road in St. Louis.

Blanchette Bridge Structural Steel Installation Nearly Complete

by Linda Wilson Horn



Crews continued through April installing the steel for the westbound I-70 Blanchette Missouri River bridge rehabilitation. All of the structural steel will be installed by early May with completion on track to reopen the bridge by Fall 2013.

Spring Cleanup for Safety

contributed by Lisa Lamons

It's spring, which means birds are singing, the sun is shining. It also means spring cleaning time! Having a clean-up session at work can help improve safety. Have employees walk through the work area with you making sure aisles are clear, machines are clean and free of debris, etc.

Of course, no cleaning of machines should be done without following proper steps such as lockout/tagout where necessary. When it's done, explain to employees and co-workers the connection between cleanliness and safety. Not only can cleaning help improve the safety of some jobs, it's also a good indicator of overall safety. A worker who always makes sure an area is neat and tidy is one who is more likely to take care in his work, as well.

The St. Louis district recently accomplished fleet week, cleaning up all vehicles. Now, let's spring into action and clean up our work areas!

**SAFETY
BEGINS
WITH ME**

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SW District at Work

Painting fresh stripes on Interstate 49 between Nevada and Rich Hill (photo on right) is Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Richard Starchman. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

Executive Assistant Deidre Berry conducts a "Missouri On the Move" survey (bottom right photo) at last week's Cherry Blossom Festival in Marshfield. She helped gather information on future projects that people would like to see MoDOT build. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

Presenting "Battle of the Belt" awards to National Honor Society students at Diamond High School (bottom left photo) is Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman, a member of the Southwest District's chapter of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. (Photo by Tessa Huffman of Diamond High School)



Striping Progress Steady, Mowing Begins Soon

by Angela Eden

Southwest District striping crews, working up to seven days a week, are well on their way to the goal of painting new stripes on all major roads by the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

As of May 1, the task was 65 percent complete.

District Engineer Becky Baltz said striping crews "are doing an amazing job" despite missing several days because of rain in what has been a wet, chilly spring.

"These people are professionals," District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton said. "They do a great job."



Striping train on I-49

Planning for this year's striping operation began soon after the 2012 striping work was completed last October, and that helped the district's striping crews move quickly and steadily this year, Middleton said.

Enhancing Safety

A striping train travels at 10 mph to 12 mph, which puts crews at risk of rear-end crashes, especially on roads with speed limits of 55 mph to 70 mph.

To provide more protection this year, a third truck equipped with a crash-absorbing truck-mounted attenuator was added to each striping train deployed on multi-lane highways.

And the last TMA in the caravan features extra LED warning lights with a panic mode setting. This allows the truck operator to hit a panic button which activates more flashing lights, alerting a driver that he or she is approaching the rear of the striping train too fast.

Also, a "shadow" truck that travels along the shoulder is being used behind each striping train that is working along any multi-lane road. The truck drives slowly on the shoulder and bears an electronic message sign to alert oncoming vehicles of the slow-moving procession ahead.

"We're trying to bring more attention to the striping crews," Middleton said. The idea is to avoid crashes and keep workers and travelers alike safe.

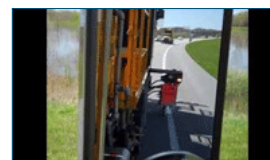
Despite the added precautions, an inattentive driver earlier this spring hit the TMA on one of the protection trucks in a striping train on I-49 in northern Bates County. No one was seriously hurt, but the incident prompted district officials during Work Zone Awareness Week April 15-19 to ask drivers to pay closer attention when coming upon moving operations.

Tractors Ready to Roll

Another important maintenance operation -- mowing -- is scheduled to begin in early to mid-May. Crews will mow major routes prior to Memorial Day, then begin mowing the minor routes.

"We'll be running 10- to 12-hour days," Middleton said.

Crews on minor roads will mow a 6-foot to 15-foot wide cut while major roads will receive up to a 15-foot wide pass, if possible.



I-49 Striping Video

Five High Schools in Southwest District Honored in 'Battle of the Belt' Contest

by Bob Edwards

Diamond High School in Newton County won second place statewide for its video public service announcement advocating seat belt use in the 2012-13 high school Battle of the Belt driving safety contest run by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Other Southwest District high schools honored for their accomplishments in the Battle of the Belt are Halfway, Seymour, Blue Eye and Pleasant Hope.

Diamond High School's 30-second long PSA is entitled "Commentator." It features an announcer explaining why a succession of students buckling "that strap thing" in their cars is so important. The students are shown with wide smiles and giving a thumbs-up for safety.

Southwest District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman said Diamond High School's National Honor Society chapter produced the PSA and earned a monetary award of \$600.

"The kids were tickled to death that they won," Rickman said. It was a great accomplishment, he said, because the school was competing against other schools with greater video production resources.

MoDOT is one of the statewide safety coalition members. Rickman heads the coalition in the Southwest District.

Two other high schools won monetary awards and plaques in the Battle of the Belt competition in the Southwest District:

Halfway High School – Highest overall use of seat belts by students among competing schools. Halfway also was presented with a silver Battle of the Belt banner for having between 95 percent and 98 percent of students wearing seat belts when the random vehicle checks were conducted during the competition. Award: \$1,000.

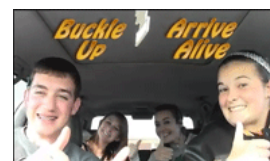
Seymour High School – Greatest percentage increase in seat belt use from the beginning to the end of the contest. Award: \$1,000.

Winning bronze banners were Blue Eye High School and Pleasant Hope High School for having between 91 percent and 94 percent of students at each school wearing seat belts when the counts were taken during the competition.

The prize money came from the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and American Family Insurance, one of the chief sponsors of Battle of the Belt. Other sponsors are the Missouri State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association and the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians.

The schools put the prize money toward further efforts to increase seat-belt use or other traffic safety activities at the school or in the community. The plaques are designed to be displayed in trophy cases at the schools.

Teen drivers are a crucial target for seat-belt use messages. Among all Missouri drivers, 79 percent use seat belts compared to 86 percent use nationwide. Among Missouri teen-age drivers, seat-belt use is 66 percent.



Diamond High School video

An important feature of the Battle of the Belt is that it gets students actively involved in safe driving initiatives and is not just information being handed down from grownups.

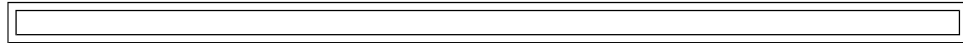
"It's great that it's peer-led," said Mark Peck, Mercy Health System injury prevention outreach coordinator. Mercy is one of the safety coalition members.

Battle of the Belt was developed to reduce the number of motor-vehicle-related injuries and fatalities among Missouri high school students by increasing the number of young drivers who use seat belts. The program was originally brought to southwest Missouri by the Missouri Emergency Nurses Association and St. John's Hospital (now Mercy) in 2006. American Family Insurance joined as an early co-sponsor. The competition went statewide through the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

In Battle of the Belt, schools compete to increase seat-belt use among students, with the goal of saving lives. The tools students use during the competition, include:

Educational campaign to increase seat-belt use, with surprise observational seat-belt surveys before and after the educational campaign to determine the change in seat-belt use among the students.

Creation of a 30-second video public service announcement promoting seat-belt use among young drivers.



For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast District

First Phase of Roundabout Construction Begins in Cape Girardeau

This week marked the beginning of construction for the roundabout project at the Route W/Lexington Avenue/Kingsway Drive intersection in Cape Girardeau.

On April 29 and 30, crews installed signs and other traffic control devices. The first stage of construction officially began Wednesday, May 1. This phase of work includes grading, installing concrete curbs and asphalt paving on the northwest and northeast corners of the Lexington Avenue/Route W intersection. This stage is expected to be completed in three to four weeks, weather permitting.

With construction underway, northbound lanes of Mount Auburn Road are reduced to one lane from south of Kage Road to Kingshighway (Route 61). The lane reduction continues on the opposite side of Kingshighway to north of Route W. In addition, access to Kingsway from Lexington is closed. Access to the trail is available through the parking lot.

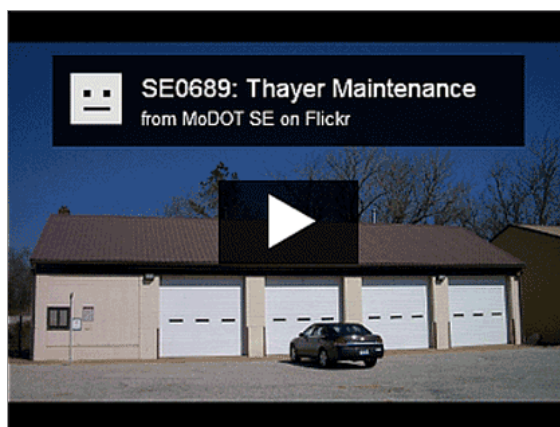
To view video footage of this busy intersection, please visit www.kfvs12.com/story/22091818/roundabout-construction-could-cause-some-traffic-delays. KFVS12 interviewed Resident Engineer Brian Holt on April 26 to discuss the upcoming traffic impacts and benefits of constructing a roundabout in this location.

In addition, simulations of the roundabout are available on the Southeast District's website at www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/RoundaboutandSignals_CapeGirardeau.htm.



Visit <http://youtu.be/koR6gPboqW0> or click the video above to view a simulation of the roundabout currently under construction in Cape Girardeau.

MoDOT Markets Thayer Maintenance Site



Visit www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm to view properties for sale through the Southeast District's Realty to Roads program.

This Friday (May 3), the Missouri Department of Transportation's Southeast District will hold a live, on-site auction at 10 a.m. to sell the former Thayer maintenance facility.

The 3.28-acre parcel is located on Route OO in Oregon County. There are several structures on the property, including a shop building, cold storage building, salt storage building, concrete fuel containment basin and an asphalt tank with saddles. The site is ideal for any legal use.

"This facility is no longer needed to build, improve or maintain Missouri's highway system," said Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge. "Funds generated through the sale of this property will be dedicated to roadway improvements."

For more information, please contact Rutledge at (417) 469-6239 or visit www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm.

Beverly Barnes Retires

After years of dedicated service, Executive Assistant Beverly Barnes retired this April.

In this next chapter of her life, Beverly plans to focus on being a stay-at-home wife, 'Grammy' to four and an avid gardener!



Please visit www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633364466349/ to view photos from Beverly's retirement party.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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